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# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SBA Regional Administrator Pledges to Work with Rhode Island Officials to Assist Small Business**

**Providence, R.I.** (February 7, 2003) – The New England Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration met with Rhode Island Governor Donald Carcieri, Secretary of State Matthew Brown, and Attorney General Patrick Lynch recently to discuss issues affecting the state's small business community. Regional Administrator Jeffrey H. Butland expressed his commitment to the governor to continue encouraging greater access to capital and increased entrepreneurship, using the Agency's resources to enhance economic development.



**SBA Regional Administrator Jeffrey H. Butland (left) discusses small business issues with Rhode Island Governor Donald Carcieri.**

During his meeting with Governor Carcieri, Butland discussed potential partnerships to help stimulate the Rhode Island's economy and nurture the small business community. More than 98 percent of Rhode Island's businesses are small by SBA's size standards.

The discussion with Secretary of State Brown centered on legislation that would create an independent state small business regulatory fairness board. The board would monitor the impact that proposed regulations and laws would have on the small business community.



**Rhode Island Secretary of State Matthew Brown (left) and SBA Regional Administrator Jeffrey H. Butland**

Small businesses are often burdened with time consuming paperwork and compliance costs associated with laws and regulations. A regulatory fairness board could help minimize those burdens by urging state agencies to consider the impact a proposed rule would have on the small business community. The SBA oversees ten regional regulatory fairness boards at the federal level.

The Regional Administrator proposed that SBA co-sponsor of a series of workshops on fraud and identity theft during the meeting with Attorney General Patrick Lynch. These crimes cost small businesses millions of dollars each year.

Butland manages SBA District Offices in the six New England states and has oversight of the SBA's financing, marketing and outreach efforts in the region. Prior to becoming regional administrator in January 2002, Butland was an operational analyst for L.L. Bean in Freeport, Maine. He served in the Maine House of Representatives from 1988 to 1992 and the Maine Senate from 1992 to 1998. Butland was the Senate President during 1995-1996.